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Norman Cross
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District
during the year 1952.

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GEO. M. MOLYNEUX, PRINTER, 141 FLETTON AVENUE, OLD FLETTON

To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Council,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health ..... F. D. F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector ..... H. E. Reeve, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector ..... E. T. Little, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1952)	8841
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1952	2489
Rateable Value	£31,744
Value of Penny Rate 31/3/1952	£128

Social conditions show little change in this predominately agricultural district with an extensive area in the north east increasingly given over to brick production.

The general health of the district remains good and the vital statistics are very satisfactory. The birth rate shows a slight decline on the previous year and approximates to that of the rest of the Country. The death rate has fallen as also has the Infantile Mortality rate with 3 deaths during the year. Two of these deaths were due to Whooping Cough which emphasises the seriousness of this disease in infancy.

For yet another year there was no notification of Diphtheria, but I make no apology for drawing the attention of all parents again to the need to have all their children immunised against Diphtheria as early as possible and certainly before the age of one year. A "booster" dose also is necessary on at least one occasion.

The number of new houses completed during the year was not as great as had been hoped for but the number under construction at the end of the year gives a promise of better results in 1953.

The provision of new houses in the district remains a task to which the Council must give considerable attention for some years to come. The lists of housing applicants in the various parishes are already for the most part formidable—many too, not on the list, are living in "unfit" houses while the deterioration of much of the older property is accelerated by the difficulty in getting owners to carry out necessary repairs. This latter problem is not confined to this district but is one for which a satisfactory solution would seem to be urgently required. In addition to these factors the district remains confronted with the problem of the 100 or so families residing in more or less unsatisfactory conditions on the hutted encampments at Sibson and for which rehousing must be the ultimate solution.

That the houses required to accommodate these families should be sited within the boundaries of this district would seem doubtful, since the majority are of foreign extraction few have had any previous local connection and many are employed outside the district. These conditions prevail it is known in other districts—predominately rural districts whose resources are from necessity restricted — and it is felt that the fate of these unfortunate people might be decided on a wider basis.

The Sewerage Scheme continues to make good progress and it is probable that it can be put into operation in most parts of the district in 1954.

Water supply in the district on the whole is very satisfactory with a large proportion of houses connected to piped main supply. In some areas however, where there has been an intermittent fall in pressure, difficulties have arisen which may necessitate certain expenditure to increase storage capacity within the district boundaries.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Members of the Council and their officers for the encouragement and assistance to me throughout a pleasant year's work.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS		
	Birth Rate per 1000 population	15.2
STILL BIRTHS		
	Rate per 1000 total births	49.6
DEATHS		
	Death rate per 1000 population	10.2
	Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—		
	All infants per 1,000 live births	22.4
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.6
	Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,, ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 LiveBirths
	Live Births	Still Births	Crude Death Rate	Stand-ardized Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Norman Cross R.D.C.	15.2	0.79	10.2	10.7	22.4
England & Wales	15.3	0.35	11.3	11.3	27.6

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

Causes of Death.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	51	39	90
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	2	2
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	—	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	3	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	7	16
18. Coronary disease, angina	7	4	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	—	1
20. Other heart disease	11	5	16
21. Other circulatory disease	1	—	1
22. Influenza	2	—	2
23. Pneumonia	—	1	1
24. Bronchitis	2	2	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	5	12	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
34. All other accidents	3	—	3
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities:**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities:**

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases the area is covered by the ambulance service of the Soke of Peterborough County Council under an agreement with Huntingdon County Council, which is the Local Health Authority responsible. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

(c) **Nursing in the Home:**

Nursing in the district is carried on by two qualified nurses employed by the Huntingdon County Council. All nurses are certified midwives and attend the majority of maternity cases under the Domiciliary Midwifery Scheme.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres:**

Infant Welfare work in the district is still carried out by the Fletton and District Infant and Child Welfare Association by arrangement with Huntingdon County Council, the Welfare Clinic being held at London Road, Old Fletton, every week on Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

YAXLEY.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Stretton Hall every 4th Friday in the month from 2-30—4 p.m.

ELTON.

The Infant Welfare Centre is situated at the Highgate Hall and meets on the 2nd Thursday each month at 2-30—4 p.m.

The following additional Clinics are provided :—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 10—12.
School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	Stretton Hall, Yaxley Every 4th Friday 10—12.
Eyes	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Every Monday 2—4 p.m. By Appt.
Orthopaedic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 2nd Tuesday in the month. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	28 Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough, Women Only—Wednesday 5.30—7 p.m. Friday 10.30—12 noon. Men Only—Monday 5.30—7 p.m. Thursday 5.30—7 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals :**

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon.

(2) General hospital services including Out-patient facilities are provided at Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

(3) Provision is made for Maternity Cases at The Gables, Peterborough, or the Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Surveyor's Office,
Booster Station,
Yaxley,
June, 1953.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have the honour to present my Third Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

NEW HOUSING.

(a) **By Council**—The number of houses built since 1945 is as follows :—

Up to 31/12/50.		During 1951.		During 1952.		
Folksworth	2	Holme	2	Yaxley	4	
Chesterton	2	Alwalton	4	Holme	2	
Orton Waterville	4	Elton	14			
Stilton	22	Yaxley	8			
Farcet	20	Orton Waterville	4			
Elton	4					
Yaxley	8					
Orton Longueville	6					
Stibbington	2					
Yaxley	10					
Totals	80		32		6	118

Plus adaption of **Temporary Dwellings** :—
Holmewood 11 ; Sibson Camp 60 , Horsey Toll 4 — 75

Families Accommodated 193

In course of erection at the end of 1952 :—
Holme 4 Bungalows ; Yaxley 4 Bungalows ; Farcet 24 houses.

Plans approved for :—
Stilton 6 Bungalows ; Morborne 4 Bungalows ; Glatton 8 houses (4 to be erected 1953)

(b) **By Private Developers**—5 Dwellings completed during the year :—

Orton Longueville — 2 Bungalows and 1 House
Folksworth — 1 Bungalow
Elton — 1 House

The number of houses erected by private developers did not

show a large increase, but advantage was taken of the easing of restrictions in licensing and 15 houses were under construction at the 31st December, 1952 All the outstanding licence applications have been dealt with where the developers had plans approved and land available.

Some difficulty has been experienced by private developers in obtaining land in the residential area, but it is hoped that some steps may be taken by the Council to provide plots with services laid ready for building, to encourage those who wish to erect a house for themselves.

The figure for Council Houses is disappointing, owing to one Contractor going into liquidation, and difficulties in purchase of a site at Yaxley. The picture for 1953 seems much more encouraging as can be seen by the numbers under construction.

The movement of occupants from huts at Sibson Camp was only slow during the year and huts vacated were generally used as extra room for persons already on the sites.

The huts at Horsey Toll Gun Site are rapidly becoming unfit for habitation, and re-housing of the occupants seems the only solution.

A scheme of regular Council House painting was commenced during 1952. Between 50 and 60 houses must be painted every year for proper maintenance.

HOUSING SURVEY.

An additional Sanitary Inspector commenced duty on the 21st January, 1952, and a part-time Clerical Assistant in May, 1952, this nearly bringing the office staff up to 1948 strength. Office records are being brought up to date, and work is continuing with the Rural Housing Survey. Houses inspected up to date have been categorized as follows :—

1.	Fit in all respects	204
2.	Requiring minor repairs	206
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	299
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning	21
5.	Unfit for Human Habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	177

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Inspections etc., made by the Department during the year is as follows:—

Subject	Visits	Subject	Visits
Nuisances	85	Caravans	19
Infectious Diseases	53	Refuse Collection	49
Cowsheds & Dairies	2	Committees, Council Meetings & Conferences	45
Housing Acts	139	New Buildings & Licensing	143
Council & Tem. Housing	438	Knackers Yards	5
Water Supply	203	Disinfestation	13
Rodent Control	34	Interviews	450
Factories & Workshops	7	Miscellaneous: (Petroleum Acts, Footpaths, Mortuaries, Shops, Planning, etc.)	323
Food	4		
Sewers, Works, Drains	454		
Civil Defence	14		

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action 123

Abated as a result of Statutory action ..... Nil

Analysis	No.	No. of Inspections
Premises	26	35
Accumulation of Refuse	14	29
Foul ditches etc.	9	47
Drains	74	110
Animals	5	9
Overcrowding	8	12
Disinfestation	3	5
Dampness	16	17

Slaughter Houses	No. licensed or registered	Nil
	No. of inspections	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	No. established	1
	No. of inspections	5

DISINFECTION.

Cases of infectious diseases reported	6	No. of inspections	53
Rooms disinfected (a) Tuberculosis	3	(b) Others	3
Schools disinfected	1		

CLOSETS.

No. of houses at the end of the year with W.C's	834
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Pail Closets	1300
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Privy Vaults	355
No. of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	11
No. of W.C.'s newly constructed for old property	22
No. of Privies converted to W.C.'s	Nil

ASHBINS .... New provided 174

WATER SUPPLY.

The low pressure at the Western end of Yaxley Broadway still gave trouble in 1952, and the connection of the Whittlesey Road Estate to the joint main by Old Fletton U.D.C., caused serious concern at peak periods, despite the various alterations made at the Yaxley Booster Station during the past 3 years. Our Consulting Engineers are preparing a scheme to overcome difficulties in both Districts.

The Scheme for supplying water to the Fen Area was in the hands of the Ministry last year. This scheme includes for the complete replacement of mains in Glatton Village, which are in a particularly bad condition.

The fire hydrants in the district were all altered to one uniform fitting during the year.

New supplies connected during the year are as follows:—

18 Domestic
18 Metered
46 Building

Samples taken from main piped supply	32
No. unsatisfactory	1

(1 unsatisfactory sample from Main Street, Farcet. Satisfactory samples obtained after repair of leaking service pipe.)

HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	124
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	71

Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 19

Action under Statutory Powers:

Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices .... Nil

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

MILK SUPPLY.

1 Dairy 3 Licensed Dealers (2 for T.T. and 2 for 'Pasteurised')
4 Distributors 4 Supplementary (3 for T.T., 2 for 'Pasteurised' and 1 for 'Sterilized')

(Registrations under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.)

DISINFESTATION.

(a) Bed Bugs.	No. of houses infested	3
	No. of houses disinfested	3
(b) Rats and Mice.	No. of houses inspected	14
	No. of houses treated and cleared	2

SEWERAGE.

Satisfactory progress continued with the 5 Parish Drainage Scheme, work completed being as follows:—

Main Sewers		House Connections	Rising Mains	Storm Overflows
Yaxley	100%	95%	100%	98%
Farcet	80%	10%	100%	98%
Stilton	80%	85%	Nil	Nil
Orton Longueville	5%	Nil	Nil	Nil

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This scheme ran smoothly during the year, the weight of loads still gradually increasing. The two regular men still remained in the Council's service, but various men engaged in a temporary capacity during the year were all very reluctant to help with refuse collection.

The weight of waste paper collected during the year was an improvement, but the price fell to £3. 0. 0. per ton, which hardly makes collection economic. Some Councils have stopped salvage collection, but in our case it is a great help to collect paper separately as it keeps combustible material off the tips.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Total No. of Factories on Register (including bakehouses)		73
No. of inspections		7
No. in which nuisances abated		Nil
Homework	No. of outworkers	1
	No. of houses	1
Legal Proceedings		Nil

MISCELLANEOUS.

Caravans. All vans are inspected to keep the standard of sanitary arrangements as required under the Public Health Act. At the end of the year 10 Caravan Licences were in force.

CONCLUSION.

I must again express my appreciation to the Council for their courtesy and consideration, to the Clerk and the Medical Officer of Health for their help and advice, and to the Staff and workmen for their co-operation.

H. ERIC REEVE,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1952.

DISEASE	TOTAL	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1
Measles	93	—	3	9	10	14	51	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	15	1	2	2	1	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One case of Typhoid fever occurred in the district but was diagnosed only after admission to hospital. No spread occurred and neither was any connection with any other case or carrier discovered in spite of intensive enquiry.

The one case of Poliomyelitis which occurred during the year made a good recovery.

The year was significant for a brisk epidemic of Measles. For the most part cases were mild with few complications and no deaths. Out of the total number of cases of Whooping Cough notified i.e. 15 there were 2 deaths, both infants.

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	2	4	2	—	—	2	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.